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P/16-251

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of

Mitsunobu ONO et al.

Date: August 23, 2005

Serial No.: 09/483,883

Group Art Unit: 2613

Filed: January 18, 2000

Examiner: Shawn S. AN

For: ENDOSCOPE APPARATUS AND FUNCTION ADJUSTING CIRCUIT
FOR ENDOSCOPE

Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22214-1450

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.53 (f) OR (g)

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Abandonment dated August 9, 2005 holding this application abandoned for applicant's failure to timely respond to the Office Action dated February 1, 2005.

Enclosed is a copy of a Request for Reconsideration which was timely filed on April 1, 2005, including a copy of a postcard receipt indicating acceptance thereof by the Patent Office.

In view of the timely filing of the Response; the certificate of mailing thereon; and acknowledgment of receipt by the mail room of the Patent and Trademark Office on the return postcard, it is submitted that the issuance of the Notice of Abandonment was an error on the part of the Patent Office. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Notice is respectfully requested.

If this communication is filed after the time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trade-marks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. §1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22214-1450, on August 23, 2005

Max Moskowitz

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

August 23, 2005

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Max Moskowitz

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Serial No. 09/483883 Filing Date 1/18/00 OFGS File No. P/16-251

Title ENDOSCOPE APPARATUS AND FUNCTION...

First Inventor ONB Date 4/1/05

The PTO has received:

Last Due Date:

☐ Patent Application of _____

Pages (including claims & abstract)

☐ Declaration or ☐ Designation Sheet

☐ Drawings _____ Sheet(s)/Figs. _____ to _____

☐ Priority Document

☐ Small Entity Declaration

☐ Assignment & Conveyance Cover Sheet

☐ Information Disclosure Statement

☐ PTO-1449

☒ Amendment

☐ Affidavit or Declaration

☐ _____

☐ Check No. _____ for \$ _____

Atty/Secy MM:cy

☐ TM Application ☐ ITU Basis

☐ Statement of Use

☐ Extension of Time

☐ Notice of Appeal

☐ Brief

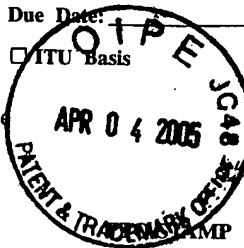
☐ Petition

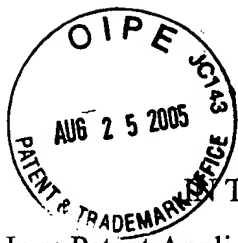
☐ Status Request

☐ Issue Fee

☒ Certificate of Mailing

☐ Express Mail No. _____





P/16-251

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Mitsunobu ONO et al.

Date: April 1, 2005

Serial No.: 09/483,883

Group Art Unit: 2613

Filed: January 18, 2000

Examiner: Shawn S. AN

For: ENDOSCOPE APPARATUS AND FUNCTION ADJUSTING CIRCUIT
FOR ENDOSCOPE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed February 1, 2005 in the above-identified application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

FEE CALCULATION

Any additional fee required has been calculated as follows:

_____ If checked, "Small Entity" status is claimed.

	NO. CLAIMS AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		EXTRA PRESENT		RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	9	MINUS	20	* =	0	X	(\$25 SE or \$50)	\$0
INDEP.	4	MINUS	4	** =	0	X	(\$100 SE or \$200)	\$0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM						X	(\$180 SE or \$360)	\$0

* not less than 20 ** not less than 3

TOTAL \$ 0

If any additional payment is required, a check which includes the calculated fee of \$ _____
(OFGS Check No. _____) is attached.

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

1. ☐ If checked, an abstract (an amended abstract) is submitted herewith.
2. ☐ If checked, amendment(s) to the drawings are submitted herewith.
3. ☐ If checked, amendment(s) to the specification are submitted herewith.
4. ☐ If checked, amendment(s) to the claims are submitted herewith.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a general-purpose video processing circuit having a drive signal generation function for driving a solid-state image pick-up device built into an endoscope and a signal processing function for outputting a standard video signal by processing an output signal from the solid-state image pickup device; and

an endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprising a function modifying circuit, connected to the general-purpose video processing circuit, for modifying at least one of the drive signal processing function and the signal processing function executed by the general-purpose video signal processing circuit in accordance with the endoscope having the solid-state image pickup device therein;

wherein the endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprises a delay amount adjusting circuit for canceling the effect of a signal delay taking place in a signal cable connecting the solid-state image pickup device to the signal processing circuit, by adjusting timing of drive signals of the solid-state image pickup device;

the general-purpose video processing circuit and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit being provided in two substrates in a common signal processing apparatus.

5. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a general-purpose video processing circuit having a drive signal generation function for driving a solid-state image pick-up device built into an endoscope and a signal processing function for outputting a standard video signal by processing an output signal from the solid-state image pickup device; and

an endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprising a function modifying circuit, connected to the general-purpose video processing circuit, for modifying at least one of the drive

signal processing function and the signal processing function executed by the general-purpose video signal processing circuit in accordance with the endoscope having the solid-state image pickup device therein;

wherein the endoscope is detachably connected to a light source, and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprises at least a white balance adjusting circuit for detecting ID information indicative of the wavelength distribution of light emitted by a lamp built into the light source, and automatically setting a white balance state in view of said ID information.

6. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a general-purpose video processing circuit having a drive signal generation function for driving a solid-state image pick-up device built into an endoscope and a signal processing function for outputting a standard video signal by processing an output signal from the solid-state image pickup device; and

an endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprising a function modifying circuit, connected to the general-purpose video processing circuit, for modifying at least one of the drive signal processing function and the signal processing function executed by the general-purpose video signal processing circuit in accordance with the endoscope having the solid-state image pickup device therein;

wherein the endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprises an adjusting circuit accommodating a variation in the number of pixels, for producing the standard video signal, even when the number of the pixels in the solid-state image pickup device is changed, by storing dummy pixels in a frame memory to compensate for a reduced number of pixels, and by applying a zoom function to produce said standard video signal from said reduced number of pixels.

7. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the endoscopic function adjusting circuit has the function of outputting a video signal which produces a still image.

8. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a general-purpose video processing circuit having a drive signal generation function for driving a solid-state image pick-up device built into an endoscope and a signal processing function for outputting a standard video signal by processing an output signal from the solid-state image pickup device; and

an endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprising a function modifying circuit, connected to the general-purpose video processing circuit, for modifying at least one of the drive signal processing function and the signal processing function executed by the general-purpose video signal processing circuit in accordance with the endoscope having the solid-state image pickup device therein;

wherein the endoscopic function adjusting circuit has the motorized function of flexing a bending portion of the insert section, interlocked with pan and tilt display functions which compensate for said motorized bending operation.

9. (Previously Presented) An endoscope apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the general-purpose video signal processing circuit and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit are usable with a plurality of insert sections having different respective lengths and correspondingly different internal delay amounts.

10. (Previously Presented) An endoscope apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the general-purpose video signal processing circuit and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit are usable with a plurality of solid-state image pickups having different respective numbers of pixels.

11. (Previously Presented) An endoscope apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising:

a solid-state image pickup device mounted at the end of an insert section of an endoscope;

a signal processing circuit, arranged in the endoscope, for driving the solid-state image pickup device and for producing a standard video signal in response to an output signal from the solid-state image pickup device;

said general-purpose video signal processing circuit and said endoscopic function adjusting circuit being comprised in said signal processing circuit.

12. (Previously Presented) An endoscope apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said endoscopic function adjusting circuit controls a wave-shaping operation for wave-shaping said output signal from said solid-state image pickup device.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated February 1, 2005.

The Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was formally filed on January 10, 2005 and applicant acknowledges its acceptance.

That RCE was accompanied by an Amendment to claim 4, in which the following additional element/feature was added:

“the general-purpose video processing circuit and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit being provided in two substrates in a common signal processing apparatus.”

In the prior remarks, it was pointed out that the two separate substrates are shown in the drawings and also supported in the specification at page 8 and at page 25, in both cases toward the bottom of the pages. An advantage of this arrangement is that the endoscopic function adjusting or the endoscopic function expansion can be easily made pursuant to respective endoscopes. In other words, the arrangement provides greater versatility and diversity in functionality and in construction.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner responds to the aforementioned comments by stating (at page 3 of the Office Action): “Kato also teaches a general purpose video processing circuit (Fig. 8C, 30) and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit (36) being provided in two-substrates in a common signal processing apparatus (12)” (emphasis in the original).

The applicant has carefully reviewed the cited reference and cannot find support to the aforementioned contention in the Office Action.

It is true that Fig. 8C of this reference shows a delay circuit (36) drawn as one block of the overall circuit block (12) which is being referred to as the common signal processing apparatus. Fig. 8C also shows a separate box designated as a signal processor and identified by reference numeral (30). However, careful and meticulous searching through the entire text of this reference reveals no mention or even hint of a mention of these circuits being provided on separate substrates or on separate modules, or on separate circuit boards. No word such as “substrate”, “board” or “module” appears in this reference

Respectfully, there is no basis for the Office Action to conclude that circuits, shown in different and separately enclosed squares or rectangular blocks, represent different circuit

modules or different substrates or different circuit boards. The logic of the Office Action, if extended across the entire document or, in fact, for the entire electrical arts, would imply that every circuit blocked off by a square or in a rectangular enclosure represents a separate circuit board. Respectfully, this makes no sense, nor is it correct to make such an assumption.

Therefore, the Office Action has not established a prima facie case of obviousness and, to the contrary, the applicant has established a clear point of distinction over the prior art.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 4 is clearly patentable over the prior art. The remaining dependent claims include all the limitations of claim 4 and impose further limitations thereon. As such, they too are and should be formally found to be patentable over the prior art.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 1, 2005

Max Moskowitz

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature
April 1, 2005

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

**FILE
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Max Moskowitz

Registration No.: 30,576

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